

HERNE BAY URBAN DISTRICT

1965 Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

G. E. BRICKLEHAST M.D. (Lond.), B.S. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. D.H.

AND THE

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager

1. Dr. Didsbury	C.407
2. Mr. Morley Parry	A.419
3. Mr. Perry	A.405
4. Miss Pidgeon	A.408

HERNE BAY URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1965

G. L. BROCKLEHURST, M.D. (Lond.), B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

HERNE BAY URBAN DISTRICT

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor L. A. Rook, J.P.

Committees concerned with matters of Public Health

Public Health and Housing Committee

(Public Health Committee and Housing
Committee amalgamated in 1953)

Highways Committee

Responsible for public cleansing,
refuse disposal and sewage disposal.

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs. G. E. Fortune (Chairman)

Councillor C. E. Taber (Vice Chairman)

The Chairman of the Council

Councillor R. Atkin

" B. Collins

" J. Conyon

" I. Fowler

" W. Garreau

" A. Pettit

" R. Rice

" Mrs. P. Stewart

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF - 1965

Medical Officer of Health
and Principal Medical
Officer, Area No. 2 K.C.C.

G. L. Brocklehurst, M.D. (Lond)
B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.

and at:

41 Hawley Square, Margate.
'phone Thanet 22201.

Deputy Medical Officer of
Health - Part-time

Dorothy N. Ironside, M.B.,
C.H.B., D.P.H. (until 20/8/65)

Chief Public Health Inspector

C. J. Clark, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary
Inspector's Examination Joint Board.

Meat and Other Foods Inspector's Certificate of the Royal
Society of Health.

Smoke Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Society of Health

Duties:

Statutory duties of a Public Health Inspector.
Housing Management.
Shops Act Administration.
Public Lighting and Petroleum.

Additional Public Health Inspector W. F. Weller, D.P.A., M.A.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary
Inspector's Examination Joint Board.

Meat and Other Foods Inspector's Certificate of the Royal
Society of Health.

Smoke Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Society of Health

Duties:

Statutory duties of a Public Health Inspector.
Shops Act Administration.
Housing Management.
Public Lighting and Petroleum.

Additional Public Health Inspector G. M. Howitt, M.A.P.H.I.,
M.R.S.H.

Certificate of the Public Health Inspector's Education Board

Duties:

Statutory duties of a Public Health Inspector.
Shops Act Administration.
Housing Management.

Clerical Staff

Miss V. C. Harris
Miss L. Hargraves

General Assistants and Rodent Operators:

R. R. H. Watson
J. T. McDonnell

KENT COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES STAFF - 1965

in the Herne Bay Urban District

Health Visitor, School Nurses and Infant Life Protection Officers:	Miss D. A. Tremble, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Miss M. Brangan, S.R.N., S.C.M., Cert. R.S.I., H.V.
Tuberculosis Health Visitor:	Miss M. Brangan, S.R.N., S.C.M., Cert. R.S.I., H.V.
Midwives:	Mrs. Shipton, S.R.N., S.C.M. Mrs. Taylor, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Home Nurses:	Miss J. Huggett, S.R.N., S.C.M. Mrs. I. Hake, S.R.N., S.C.M. Miss F. Harrison, S.R.N., S.C.M. Mrs. J. Ramsden, S.R.N.
Domestic Help District Organiser:	Mrs. A. Kingston.
District Officer:	H. T. Suckling.
Assistant District Officer:	D. H. Bartlett.
Registrar of Births and Deaths:	Mrs. M. G. Oakley.
Education Welfare Officer:	K. W. Ford.
<u>Other Staff: South East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board</u>	
Chest Physician and Adviser on After-care of Tuberculosis:	Owen Clarke, M.D., M.R.C.P.

June 1966.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Herne Bay Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of Herne Bay for the year of 1965, with which is included the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

VITAL STATISTICS

The vital statistics of the district show an increase in the population (as estimated by the Registrar General) of 800. An increase in the birth rate is shown, 18.87 in 1965 as compared with 16.24 in 1964. The total number of live births increased from 255 in 1964 to 307 in 1965. The death rate increased from 11.23 in 1964 to 11.4 in 1965. The infant death rate was 22.8 compared with 19.0 for England and Wales. 9.77% of the total live births were illegitimate.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Apart from five cases of Scarlet Fever and a mild epidemic of measles, there was no serious infectious disease

MALIGNANT DISEASE

Deaths from cancer of the lung were one less than last year. The lungs are now the commonest organs of the body to be affected. Evidence of the association of cigarette smoking and lung cancer continues to accumulate.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE

The Health Services provided in the town are set out in the report in some detail; they are available to all the inhabitants, and they are adequate.

Mention should again be made of much good work carried out in the district during the year by members of the staff of the Health Services operated by the County Council, with particular reference to the many and varied duties performed by Health Visitors, Midwives, Home Nurses, Children's Welfare Officers, District Officers, Domestic and Home Helpers, etc., and also the various voluntary organisations in the town such as the W.V.S., Old People's Welfare Committee, the British Red Cross Society, the St. John Ambulance Association and others. These workers do much for the comfort and well-being of the inhabitants of the town, and their work is greatly appreciated by the people concerned.

GENERAL

This will be the last Report that I shall present to you. I was first appointed to Herne Bay in 1943. In twenty three years we have seen many new Public Health measures laid before Parliament, all of which have arisen from the enlightened outlook of the post war era, and have seemed to follow one another in an orderly sequence. The Urban District Council has kept well abreast of the times in all these matters, and I look back over the years with satisfaction on my happy association with your Council. Members have changed during this time, but I have always appreciated the attitude of helpful co-operation which has been forthcoming.

My thanks are also due to the members of the Public Health Department for the loyal and efficient way in which they have carried out their duties; my colleagues in other departments; to the staffs of the Kent County Health Services and the Regional Hospital Board Services covering the Urban District; and to the medical practitioners practising in the area for their willing co-operation and assistance at all times in the public health work of our town.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

G. L. BROCKLEHURST

Medical Officer of Health and Principal
Medical Officer, Area No. 2, Kent County Council.

HERNE BAY URBAN DISTRICT

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (including water)	8,889 acres
Population 1965 (Registrar General - Mid Year)	23,760
* Rateable Value (1st April, 1966)	£ 925.766
* Estimated sum represented by the ld. rate	£ 3,675
* Note: Figures shown are for 1966.	

VITAL STATISTICS

(a) Mothers and Infants

	<u>Herne Bay</u>	<u>England Wales</u>
<u>Live Births</u>		
Number M. 158 F. 149 Total	307	-
Rate per 1000 population	12.92	-
*Adjusted Birth Rate	18.87	18.0
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total live births):	9.772%	-
<u>Stillbirths</u>		
Number M. 1 F. 2 Total	3	-
Rate per 1000 total live and stillbirths	9.68	15.7
Total live and stillbirths	310	-
<u>Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)</u>		
Infant Mortality Rates		
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	22.80	19.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	14.44	-

	<u>Herne Bay</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	100.00	-
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	13.03	-
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)	13.03	-
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and stillbirths)	22.58	26.9
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)		
Number of deaths	NIL	-
Rate per 1000 total live and stillbirths	00.00	-

(b) Deaths - General Population

Male	228		
Female	293		
Total		521	-
Deaths per 1000 of the estimated population mid 1965		21.93	-
*Adjusted Death Rate		11.40	11.5

* The figures shown as "adjusted Birth Rate" and "adjusted Death Rate" have been corrected by comparability factors supplied by the Registrar General.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN HERNE BAY URBAN DISTRICT

DURING 1965

CAUSES	Males	Females
	228	293
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	1	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	14	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	9
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	22	25
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	-
16. Diabetes	-	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	40	75
18. Coronary disease, angina	51	37
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	6
20. Other heart diseases	35	69
21. Other circulatory diseases	11	13
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	3	10
24. Bronchitis	10	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
28. Nephritis, and nephrosis	1	5
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	17	16
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
34. All other accidents	2	6
35. Suicide	1	2

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Herne Bay is a seaside holiday resort on the northern coast of Kent, at the mouth of the Thames Estuary. Bounded on the north side by the north sea, it is almost surrounded by the villages of the Bridge/Blean Rural District. It lies between the Whitstable Urban District on the west, and Birchington, in the Borough of Margate, on the east; to the south, and approximately eight miles distant, is the City of Canterbury.

The town is a holiday resort, and there is considerable seasonal employment in catering for the needs of visitors during the summer months. The population figure is then almost double that of the winter residential population.

There is a large residential area in the Urban District and, as the town is within easy reach of London, many of the inhabitants travel each day to their employment in the City. The town has grown appreciably during recent years. This is reflected in the Registrar General's mid-year estimate. The electrification of the railway system has attracted many more residents and visitors to the town, which continues to expand.

In addition to the town's education and utility services, (schools, electricity, gas, water, fire, transport, local government, and postal services) there are a number of professional and commercial establishments and light industrial undertakings which provide employment. Agricultural employment is available in the rural area. It is the Council's policy to attract suitable light industries to the town to establish a more balanced community. This has met with some success.

The Kent County Council is the Education Authority for the Urban District. There are two County Primary, two C.E. and Junior Schools, and one County Secondary School. In addition, there are independent fee-paying schools for boarders and day scholars. Herne Bay has two large convalescent homes for adults and several smaller ones for children. There are holiday homes and homes for old people and the chronic sick. The Cripplecraft Home provides occupation and welfare for the disabled. Herne Bay Memorial Hospital and Herne Hospital employ a number of nursing and domestic workers.

Meteorology

The Council maintain a meteorological station on the Sea Front and daily weather readings are transmitted to the Air Ministry. The following are the readings for the year 1965:

Period	Sunshine Hours:	Rainfall Inches:
1965	1547.4	24.51
Monthly Mean:	129.0	2.04
Daily Average:	4.2	0.07

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

All pathological and bacteriological work for the Urban District is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Preston Hall, Maidstone, free of charge. This is one of a chain of laboratories established by the Ministry of Health throughout the country.

Services provided by the Kent County Council under the N.H.S.A.

Health Visitors, School Nurse and Infant Life Protection Officers.

The health visiting, school nursing and infant life protection services are carried out by the County Council, who provide the staff. During 1965, these duties were performed by Miss D. A. Tremble and Miss M. Brangan.

Tuberculosis health visiting is carried out by Miss M. Brangan.

Nursing in the Home

The Kent County Council provide a free Nursing Service and, apart from cases of emergency and accident, a patient may obtain the services of a home nurse if requested by the medical practitioner in attendance. There are 4 such nurses in this district.

Domicilliary Midwifery

A comprehensive service is available, and two midwives are employed.

Domestic Help Service

Domestic help is obtainable for the sick, aged, and infirm, and in cases of urgent need; the scheme is operated from the Kent County Council's clinic in King's Road, under the supervision of the District Organiser, Mrs. A. Kingston.

District Office

The Kent County Council has established a District Office at Whitstable, where enquiries can be made with regard to the County Council Health Services.

National Health Service Act, 1946

Maintenance of the Family as an Effective Unit

The Ministry have approved the modification of the County's existing proposals, by inclusion of the following:-

"The Council intends to introduce and, from time to time, develop arrangements designed to ensure the maintenance of the family as an effective unit including, in the interests of the children, the rehabilitation and training at recuperative centres of the parents, particularly the mother, and the use as necessary of the services provided under Section 22 of the Act, relating to the expectant and nursing mother, and children below school age, Section 24 relating to health visiting, and Section 29 to the domestic help, family help and child help services."

Treatment Centres and Clinics

Clinics continued to be held regularly throughout the year at the Kent County Council's Health Centre, King's Road, Herne Bay (Tuberculosis Dispensary in Cavendish Road). The following table gives the days and times when the various sessions are held:

CLINICS	SESSIONS	
	Days	Times
Maternity Clinics: Ante-Natal Clinics	Fridays	2 - 4 p.m.
Child Welfare Clinic: Vaccination against Smallpox by appointment at this Clinic. The Health Centre, King's Road.	Thursdays	Afternoons
B.C.C. Vaccination Clinic	Held monthly by Chest Physician at times arranged with Tuberculosis Health Visitor.	
Poliomyelitis Vaccination Clinic	Held every other Friday afternoon.	

School Health Service

Medical and dental treatment is provided by the County Council as follows:-

Minor Ailments Clinic	Days and Attendance of Medical Officer
The Health Centre	Every second and fourth Thursday afternoon at 4.30 p.m.

Specialist School Clinics

Attendance at these County Council Clinics is by appointment only, application for treatment being made to the County Medical Officer.

Clinics	Address of Centres
Child Guidance Ophthalmic	51 London Road, Canterbury. The Health Centre, King's Road, and Kent & Canterbury Hospital.
Orthopaedic Speech Defects	Kent & Canterbury Hospital, County Clinics, 94 Whitstable Road, Canterbury.

Dental Clinic

Patients receive attention at the Dental Clinic, Health Centre, King's Road, Herne Bay, by appointment on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Clinic Services provided through the Hospital Service

The following clinics are administered by the Hospital Management Committee of the Regional Hospital Board:

CLINICS	SESSIONS	
	Days	Times
Tuberculosis <u>Dispensaries:</u> K.C.C. Chest Clinic, Cavendish Road, Herne Bay.	Monday	10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Queen Victoria Hospital, Herne Bay.	Alternate Mondays	1.45 p.m.
Venereal Diseases <u>Clinic:</u> Kent & Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury.	(Women) Tuesdays	2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.
	(Men) Tuesdays	3.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Hospitals

The hospitals serving the Urban District are operated by the Local Hospital Management Committee, which is under the control of the South Eastern Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

The hospitals serving the Urban District are:

Isolation Hospital

Haine Isolation Hospital, Ramsgate.

General Hospitals

Kent & Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury.

Herne Bay Memorial Hospital.

Whitstable and Tankerton Hospital.

Herne Hospital.

Nunnery Fields Hospital, Canterbury (for old people).

Development of Hospital Services

A plan for the development of hospital services, reported by the Clerk of the Council in 1960, was referred to in some detail in my Annual Report of 1960 and 1961.

Smallpox Hospital Accommodation

The Regional Hospital Board have a scheme in operation whereby smallpox patients may be admitted to the River Hospital (Long Reach) Dartford, Kent. No cases were notified during the year under review.

Registration of Nursing Homes

Sections 187 to 194, Public Health Act, 1936

There are three registered nursing homes. The following table shows particulars of number of beds available:-

Year 1965	No. of Homes	No. of beds provided for		Totals
		Maternity	Others	
Homes on register during the year	3	-	35	35

Convalescent Homes and Holiday Homes, etc.

There are several Holiday and Convalescent Homes in the Urban District, with accommodation for some 400 patients.

"Batesholme", Grand Drive, accommodates 19 boys between the ages of 3 and 17 years, under the care of the K.C.C. "Grosvenor House", Victoria Park, accommodates 22 children between the ages of 3 and 15 years, and "Beaumont House", Beaumont Street, has accommodation for 10 children of the same age.

National Assistance Act, 1948

Two burials were arranged under Section 50 of the above Act, during 1965.

Public Mortuary

The Council own an up-to-date mortuary comprising a post-mortem room with refrigeration facilities for four bodies, also a pannelled chapel and viewing room, which has independent access. Records are kept of all bodies admitted and of post-mortem examinations.

The Whitstable Urban District Council, being without a satisfactory mortuary, approached the Herne Bay Council with a view to sharing the use of the mortuary at Herne Bay. This was agreed and has continued subject to financial arrangements on a population basis. The arrangement operated from 1st April, 1961.

During the year, 73 bodies were admitted from Herne Bay and 39 from Whitstable. Upon all of these, post-mortem examinations were held.

Schools

There are 2 independent Boarding Schools and 2 independent Day Schools in the Urban District, with accommodation for some 493 children.

In addition, there are 2 County Primary and Junior Schools, 2 C.E. and 1 County Secondary School. There are 2,333 children attending schools in Herne Bay.

Food Poisoning

No outbreaks of food poisoning occurred throughout the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following is a summary of the incidence of infectious diseases during the year:

DISEASES	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	5	4	1
Measles	80	1	1
Meningitis	1	1	1
TOTALS	86	5	1

The following table gives the age incidence of the various notifiable diseases which occurred during the year:

DISEASES	Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 and over
Measles	2	10	7	13	13	30	2	1	1	2	1
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Meningitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Compared with the total number of infectious diseases notified during 1964, this year's figure has decreased (86 against 108).

Chicken pox is no longer required to be notified as an infectious disease.

The following table shows the incidence of measles for the last five years:-

Year	Children 1 - 5 years	Children 5 - 15 years	Adult	Totals
1961	65	70	6	141
1962	2	1	-	3
1963	233	139	2	374
1964	74	21	1	96
1965	45	32	3	80

Notifiable Infectious Diseases

Certain infectious diseases are required to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health when they occur. Anthrax has been added to the number of notifiable diseases, and in 1960, chicken pox was deleted.

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and mortality during the year 1965

Age Periods	NEW CASES:				DEATHS:			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 65	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-

Inward and Outward Transfers, Recoveries, etc.	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
Inward transfers from other areas	8	5	-	1
Outward transfers to other areas	4	-	-	-
Restored to register on return to district	-	-	-	-
Reported to be "Recovered"	4	5	1	4
Removed from the register upon declining medical treatment	-	-	-	-

The number of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1965 was:

Type of Case:	Male	Female	Totals
Pulmonary	89	52	141
Non-pulmonary	15	19	34
TOTALS	104	71	175

Prevention of Tuberculosis: Care and After-Care

A scheme is operated jointly by the Kent County Council and the Kent Council of Social Service for the provision of care and after-care of patients suffering from tuberculosis. Through this scheme arrangements are made, where necessary, for assistance to be rendered in various ways, viz. the provision of shelters; extra meat and milk, the provision of beds, bedding and clothing.

Home visiting is carried out by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor for the area, who gives suitable advice to the patients.

Where there is need, help is given in housing problems, and assisting with removal expenses; the admission of patients to holiday homes is arranged; in the case of employment, endeavours are made to find suitable posts for patients who are fit for work; and materials are provided for recreational therapy.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925

Public Health Act, 1936 - Section 172

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

The following table shows the number of injections given in the various priority groups during the year ended 31st December, 1965.

Year	3rd and 4 Dose (Salk and Oral)	3 Orals (Complete Course)
1965	--	55
1964	5	185
1963	2	25
1962	1	15
1958 - 61	154	31
1949 - 57	36	6
TOTALS	198	317

Immunisation and Vaccination

Set out below in the charts are the diptheria immunisation and smallpox vaccination figures for 1965:

Diphtheria Immunisation (Singly or in Combination)

Year of Birth	Primary		Reinforcing	
	Triple	Diph./Tet.	Triple	Diph./Tet.
1965	120	-	-	-
1964	133	2	6	1
1963	4	-	104	19
1962	6	-	40	5
1961	3	1	4	6
1958 - 60	-	3	39	89
1949 - 57	1	-	-	10
TOTAL	267	6	193	130

Smallpox Vaccination

In view of the amendment to the County Council's proposal approved as from the 1st January, 1963, the following is the only information now available:

Primary Vaccination 1 year	Re-vaccination School age but under 8 years
167	1

Home Safety Act. 1961

The Public Health and Housing Committee undertook the responsibility for supervising the exercise of home safety precautions under the above Act.

A part-time Home Safety Organiser has been appointed but at the end of 1965 had not commenced his duties.

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF

THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1. - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occ. Pros- ecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sec- tions 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Author- ities.	7			
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	82	66	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	12			
TOTAL	101	66	-	-

2. - Cases in which DEFECTS were found. (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were institute (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of clean- liness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary con- veniences (S.7.) (a)					
Insufficient (b)	1	1	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act. (not including offences relat- ing to outwork.	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	1	1	-	-	-

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work (1)	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council. (3)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists. (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises. (5)	Notices served. (6)	Prose- cution (7)
Wearing) Making etc., Cleaning and Washing	20	-	-	-	-	-
Artificial Flowers	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	20	-	-	-	-	-

R E P O R T

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

and

HOUSING MANAGER

C. J. Clark, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Herne Bay,
Kent.

June, 1966.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Herne Bay Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1965 which is upon similar lines to those of recent years. It is not only a record of the work of 1965. It also provides some amount of background information, and refers to the policy of the Committee on various matters affecting housing.

It is hoped, in this way, to provide an annual report which is, at the same time, a means of reference to some of the more important subjects which are the concern of the Public Health and Housing Department. Repetition makes tiresome reading. Members who are familiar with the subject can omit those paragraphs which are marked "repeated".

Housing need is still with us; the character of housing need varies greatly from the young to the old. For the young married couple the overriding need is for a separate home away from overcrowding and the frustration of shared facilities. For the aged couple the need is for accommodation suitable for diminished physical ability. Many an upstairs flat is excellent in itself, but quite unsuitable for those who cannot climb stairs.

It will be noted that the efforts of the Committee in encouraging tenants to purchase their own houses has met with some success. During 1965, 14 tenants of Council houses purchased their own homes; some with the help of loans granted by the Council. To construct a similar number of houses would cost at least £50,000 and a wait of a year or more for them to be built. Those who can build, or purchase, their own homes should do so. House ownership gives satisfaction and a sense of security which no rented house can provide. A walk around any newly developed estate of privately owned houses will show the pride of possession which is evident in every well kept garden. Nevertheless, there will always be a place for the rented house. Local authorities have become the main source of rented houses for they already own one in four of the houses in this country. This proportion will most certainly increase.

In the Health and Housing Department we have noted that young people seem to fall into two groups, (a) those who would not think of applying to the Council for a house and save to start buying their own homes before getting married - they are the wise ones, and (b) those who think only of the Council as the provider of houses for their occupation.

A record number of houses were given up by tenants during 1965, which is just as well, for no new houses or flats were completed during that year. Elizabeth Court, the town's first multi-storey flats, were almost complete by the end of 1965 and were occupied early the next year. Work was due to commence upon the construction of flats with resident warden at Canterbury Road. These two important projects are landmarks of achievement in the housing record of the Council.

Pre-war Council houses are now receiving close attention with a determination to complete the improvement of the remaining 108 houses during the next two, or three years. The works are being carried out by direct labour in the Surveyor's Department. During the same period notices will be served to secure the compulsory improvement of houses which are privately owned. This will bring about a considerable increase in the satisfying work of dealing with the improvement of substandard houses with the aid of grant.

The final phase of the King's Road Clearance Area has been represented. This deals with houses upon the south side of King's Road. It provides the opportunity for completing the redevelopment of this part of the town.

The Department's activities in the clearance of unfit houses, improvement of houses, and with housing management, are not allowed to interfere with the important work of food hygiene. One Public Health Inspector devotes most of his time to this, and to the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. This degree of specialisation ensures adequate attention to an important branch of our work. There has been a concerted effort to deal thoroughly with the registration and inspection of premises under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. This Act extends the benefits of welfare and safety legislation to those who work in offices and shops. I have included a comprehensive progress report upon the considerable amount of work already undertaken to secure compliance with this new Act.

There has been improvement in the supply of water to Reculver, and the water mains in the town are undergoing extensive descaling to remove corrosion. There have been improvements to the sewerage system, and further modernisation and enlargement of the sewage disposal works awaits the approval of the Ministry. This is a matter which is the concern of the Council's Surveyor.

After a five year period of phased improvement works at 13 caravan sites, most of these have now been brought up to the required standard. At Reculver the Council's own caravan sites have excellent new buildings for toilets, ablutions, etc. and more are planned. There are also excellent new concrete roads. These capital works are financed from the profits of the caravan sites, and are an example of the kind of arrangements which owners of private caravan sites are encouraged to make.

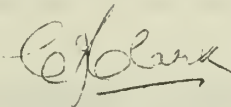
Shops at Herne Bay are no longer required to close on Thursday afternoon (Wednesday at Herne and Broomfield) although most shops continue to do so. Thursday was fixed as the day of the weekly half holiday as long ago as 1913 by local orders.

These closing orders have been revoked by the Shops (Early Closing Days) Act 1965, which gives every trader the right to choose his own "early closing day" as it is now called. This facilitates the adoption of a five day week at shops. The trader who was formerly obliged to close his shop on a Thursday afternoon, but would have preferred to close all day on Monday, or some other day of the week, was in difficulty - he can now do as he wishes.

Other new legislation to be administered is the Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964, which came into operation in April 1965, and the Riding Establishments Act, which came into force at the same time.

This Annual Report deals with the activities of a busy Department, which is encouraged by the support of the Chairman and members of a progressive Public Health and Housing Committee.

This, I gratefully acknowledge, together with the assistance I received from my staff and from colleagues in other departments of the Council.



Chief Public Health Inspector
and Housing Manager.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

WATER (Repeated)

The public water supply is provided by the Canterbury and District Water Company and is consistently pure. Regular and frequent samples show that it is of satisfactory organic quality and bacteriological standard.

Formerly, the local supply was distributed by the Herne Bay Waterworks Company from a deep well at Ford. That Company has ceased to exist and its functions have been taken over by the Canterbury and District Water Company.

For many years the County Analyst commented upon the increasing salinity of the Ford supply. This salinity had risen 50% since 1948, and the supply was in danger of becoming unpalatable. The local supply is now obtained entirely from the Canterbury area. The water is not saline, and is slightly less hard.

The well at Ford remains in commission for emergency use only.

Examination of Water Samples (Revised)

Public Supply Samples of the public water supply were taken during the year and the following are the results of examination by the Pathologist and the County Analyst:-

<u>Bacteriological Examination</u>	:	9 samples taken	All satisfactory
<u>Chemical Analysis</u>	:	10 samples taken	All satisfactory

These samples were taken after the supply had been chlorinated.

Private Sources Samples taken from private wells used for domestic water supply at individual houses were taken with the following results:-

<u>Bacteriological Examination</u>	:	8 samples taken	All satisfactory
<u>Chemical Analysis</u>	:	8 samples taken	6 satisfactory

The two unsatisfactory samples were taken from a well where results are generally satisfactory but are occasionally of suspicious quality. The owner has been urged to discontinue the use of well water for domestic purposes. A public water supply is available.

Discolouration of water supply (Revised)

During recent years, there have been complaints from time to time concerning rust deposit in the local public supply. Samples were submitted to the public analyst for examination. He considered the samples to be "normal and satisfactory apart from iron content which is unusually high and very troublesome for domestic use, especially clothes washing".

A sample taken in 1964 contained 8.5 parts of iron per million parts of water, whereas the recognised permissible limit of iron in water is 0.3 parts per million. The matter was taken up with the Canterbury and District Water Company. It was explained that the water mains at Herne Bay are heavily corroded and encrusted with rust. This may have been aggravated by the salinity of the supply from Ford. The encrustation is dislodged by any surge of water in the mains. Until it has had time to resettle the rust is discharged through domestic taps and into automatic washing machines with unfortunate consequences. The Water Company now has a programme for descaling all affected water mains. During 1965, 12 thousand yards of water mains were descaled mainly in the central and east cliff areas of the town. This work continues.

Number of Dwelling Houses supplied from the Public Water Mains (Revised)

There are 10,836 houses and flats in the Urban District and all but 9 are supplied from the public water mains. We are informed that during 1965, 4,000 yards of new water main were laid by the local Company to supply new houses and bungalows.

Hillborough and Reculver (New)

An important extension of the water mains to these areas followed representations to the Water Company concerning the difficulty in maintaining an adequate supply of water during peak periods. In fact, the only way to maintain a supply at Hillborough was to reduce the supply to Reculver. This created considerable difficulties, especially at the caravan sites where there is heavy demand at peak periods. The Water Company has met the situation by installing a new 6 inch main from Oxenden Corner to Hillborough. This ensures adequate supply at

Hillborough and at the Chez Laurie which had been affected. It also ensures an adequate supply at Reculver, together with the large storage tanks which have been provided to accumulate a local supply at the Council's caravan sites. The tanks fill up during the night and during slack day-time periods.

These measures seem to have met the water supply situation.

Kent Water Supply (Revised)

It has been pointed out that Kent is not a County possessing limitless supplies of water. Water has become a commodity to be conserved and used with the greatest care. We are informed that future development of Kent might be seriously affected by the water supply position. A survey of water resources in Kent has shown that these are insufficient to meet development which appears to be likely during the next 20 years.

Samples of Kent water supply are tested for radioactivity

Fluoridation of Water Supplies (Revised)

Circular 15/65 and others

Circulars have been received from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government concerning the fluoridation of water supplies. The subject has been discussed by the members of the Council at Canterbury and Herne Bay. Both Councils have decided against the introduction of fluoride into the public water supply at the present time. I am informed that in Kent fluoride is naturally present in most water to the extent of one-twentieth of one part per million.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SANITARY CONVENIENCES (Revised)

The Council's modernised sewage disposal works at May Street receive sewage mainly from Beltinge, Herne, and Broomfield. It is to undergo further modernisation and enlargement when Ministry approval is received. Sewage from the remainder of the Urban District passes by gravity or is pumped, to a disintegrator station at the East Cliff and thence to the sea.

During the year, work was completed upon the improvement of the sewerage system by the construction of a new rising main from Eddington to May Street, and by the installation of modern equipment at three new Ejector stations from which

sewage is lifted to a high level before gravitating to May Street. Two new pumping stations were in operation by the end of 1964, and the remaining station came into operation in 1965.

There are 127 properties drained to cesspools which are emptied from time to time by the Council. There are also 13 properties served by pail closets.

At 114 occupied dwellings choked drains were cleansed by the Public Health Department and a charge made to cover the cost. This has been done for many years at Herne Bay. It is a practice now recognised by the Public Health Act, 1961, which authorises local Councils to cleanse or repair drains upon request by an owner, and to recover the cost of so doing.

At three dwelling houses, drainage systems were repaired by the Council after the service of statutory notices under the Public Health Act. Costs were recovered.

Works of maintenance were carried out by the Council upon two private sewers and the costs recovered from the owners of properties draining into the sewers. At South Road a private sewer was repaired at a cost of £93 apportioned equally and recovered from the owners of 12 houses. At Mortimer Street a private sewer was repaired at a cost of £63 to be recovered in equal amounts from two owners.

At seven houses tests were carried out upon house drainage systems at the request of their owners and upon payment of the Council's fees. The charge varies from two to three guineas per test according to the size of the drainage system.

RIVERS AND STREAMS (Revised)

The River Wantsum forms the south-eastern boundary of the district before it passes to the sea, and is free from pollution.

The brook at Hampton sometimes needs spraying in summer to prevent it becoming a breeding place for insect pests. This treatment is also applied at many ditches throughout the district.

Plenty Brook at Eddington is no longer troublesome. In the past, nuisance occurred from a storm water overflow which discharged into the water course from the sewerage system. The improvements to the sewerage system referred to under a previous paragraph have remedied the trouble.

PUBLIC CLEANSING
(Revised)

This service is administered by the Council's Surveyor. Domestic refuse is collected weekly from dwelling houses and conveyed by covered moving-floor vehicles to the refuse tip at Broomfield. Since 1952 the tip has been enlarged following a local enquiry.

Collection of refuse from Hotels, Restaurants, and some trade premises is carried out more frequently when required during the holiday season.

The Health Department is informed of any defective or unsatisfactory dustbins. During the year dustbins were supplied at 117 dwellings by owners and occupiers upon informal intimation that such were required. In no case was it necessary to serve a statutory notice to require provision of a dustbin.

A Horsfall Incinerator was installed at the Broomfield Refuse Tip in 1961 at a cost of £210. It is used primarily for burning sanitary towels removed from the Council's Public Conveniences. These are collected and taken to the tip daily by staff of the Public Health Department.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA
(Revised)

Total number of visits of all kinds made during the year	6,521
Total number of interviews at the office with property owners, housing applicants, tenants, traders and others	2,275
Number of notices served - Statutory	13
- Informal	966

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS
(Revised)

TO DWELLING HOUSES - FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PURPOSES

For repair, closure, or demolition of unfit houses	304
" improvement grants	312
" water supply - sampling, etc.	41
" complaints of nuisance from the keeping of animals ..	2
" " " " from noise	3
" " " " at ditches and watercourses ..	24
" the abatement of other nuisances	35
" complaints of flooded basements	3
" choked and defective drainage and drain testing	293
" destruction of vermin and insect pests	150
" disinfection of rooms and bedding	7
" enquiry concerning infectious disease and food poisoning	36
" provision of dustbins at private dwellings	5
" complaints re sub-standard holiday accommodation	3
" overcrowding at private dwellings	3

TO DWELLING HOUSES - FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT

To inspect housing applicants' living conditions	427
" " Council houses for cleanliness, repairs and improvement	272
" " G.L.C. bungalows at Herne	6
" provide garages and hardstandings for tenants	74
" deal with tenants' cars parked on grass forecourts ...	26
" " " " neglected gardens	38
" acquire land for future building	3
" remove accumulations from vacant Council houses	22
" provide dustbins at Council houses	71

TO FOOD PREMISES

For enforcement of Food Hygiene Regulations	619
" sampling, milk, ice cream, etc.	51

FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Administration of Shops Act, 1950	7
" " Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act .	532
For control of caravan sites	89
" " " public conveniences	441
" destruction of insect pests, etc. at refuse tip	112
" removal of accumulations from vacant land	28
" destruction of rats and mice (includes survey)	2,028
" abatement of nuisances	11
To Factories and outworkers premises	86
" petroleum spirit stores for licensing	4
" the Public Mortuary	107
" Animal Boarding Establishments, Pet Shops, and Riding Establishments	4
" building sites	6
For miscellaneous purposes	12
" burials under the National Assistance Act	6
" street lighting	218

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS (CONTINUED)
(Revised)

INTERVIEWS AT OFFICE

Concerning Improvement Grants	15
" Food and food premises	
" Rent Act, 1957	
" public health matters generally	77
With tenants of Council houses	43
" housing applicants	53
" others - about housing matters	19
Concerning street lighting	14
" Shops Acts	
" miscellaneous matters	1

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIED AND IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED
(Revised)

Unfit houses demolished - individual unfit houses
Unfit houses closed for human habitation
Unfit parts of houses represented for closure for human
habitation
Unfit houses previously closed now repaired and made
fit for habitation
Unfit houses voluntarily reconditioned by owners
Houses at which overcrowding has been abated
" repaired and made fit for habitation (repair
notices) ..
(8 of these resulted from the service of statutory notices)
Houses at which dirty conditions have been improved
" improved with the aid of improvement grants
" at which sufficiency of water supply has improved
by larger water service - Many at Hillborough and
Reculver
" at which flooding in cellars has been remedied ..
" " " dustbins have been provided by informal
action
" " substandard holiday accommodation has
been improved - confirmed complaints
" with rust deposit in water supply (complaints) ..
Bedding disinfected or destroyed
Drains tested upon request
Choked drains cleared by informal action and upon
payment of cost
Private sewers and drains repaired or relaid (5 after
service of statutory notice)

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIED AND IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED (CONTINUED)

Accumulations removed from undeveloped land	12
Nuisances abated: Smoke 5, animals 2, noise 1, sewage 2, ditches 4	14
Complaints not confirmed	6

Factory Act

Nuisance abated by repair of eavesgutters	1
Water closets required at building sites	1

Disinfestation

Premises treated for destruction of rats and mice	294
Wasp nests destroyed	62
Treatment of tip for fly destruction	10
Premises disinfested: Fleas 1, ants 9, carpet beetle 1, cockroaches 11, brown moth caterpillar 3	25

Note

The above schedule of works does not include works carried out at licensed caravan sites to implement model standards.

FOOD PREMISES } Improvements.	
AND OFFICES } - Contraventions of Food Hygiene Regulations and	
AND SHOPS } Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.	

Structural works, cleansing, appliances, etc. required

Cleansing of floors, walls and/or ceilings of food preparing rooms	32
Perished wall surfaces repaired or tiled	7
Ventilation improved	5
Sinks with constant hot water provided and renewed	14
Waste receptacles provided	1
Sanitary fittings repaired	2
Structural repairs to floors and roofs	6
Working surfaces renewed with formica etc.	3
Dirty appliances required to be cleansed	3
Yards paved and/or drained	1
Artificial lighting improved	14
Heating improved	7
Handrails provided to staircases	7
W.C. compartments cleansed or redecorated	12
Beetles destroyed and harbourage removed	1

FOOD PREMISES	}	Improvements.
AND OFFICES		- Contraventions of Food Hygiene Regulations and
AND SHOPS		Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.
		(Continued)

Facilities required for use by staff

water closets provided to remedy insufficiency
 Wash basins with hot and cold water
 Soap, nail brushes and towels
 First Aid outfits
 Sanitary fittings requiring to be cleansed or renewed
 Accommodation for outdoor clothing
 Thermometers provided (to ensure adequacy of heating) ...

Food Premises Discontinued

Unsatisfactory shop closed

Food and Drugs Act Offences (Verbal or written warnings)

Smoking whilst handling
 Contaminated milk bottle
 Foreign bodies in bread
 Wire in chocolate éclair
 Mouldy bread, sausages, and pie
 Dirty crockery
 Dog in bakehouse
 Food exposed to contamination in shops
 Need for protective clothing to prevent food contamination

Prosecutions

Lint bandage in cockles, fined 1, gns. plus 10 gns. costs

SMOKE CONTROL
(Revised)

Herne Bay is a residential and holiday resort with little industry so it is free from the problems of industrial smoke, with the exception of the occasional emission from a laundry chimney. At one laundry an oil burning plant was installed in 1961 to remedy a long-standing nuisance from soot, smoke and ash. Another laundry continues to burn solid fuel which occasionally gives rise to complaint.

Domestic smoke is a problem in every town and, even at industrial towns, it is a major cause of atmospheric pollution.

It is important, therefore, to prevent domestic smoke by the burning of smokeless fuels, and by the use of solid fuel appliances of a design which is approved by the Coal Utilisation Council.

The Council adopted the Model Smoke Prevention byelaw which came into force in this district early in 1960.

The byelaw requires at all new buildings:-

- (a) only such appliances for heating and cooking as are suitably designed for burning gas, electricity, coke or anthracite,

or

- (b) appliances which are approved by the Coal Utilisation Council - these will efficiently burn solid fuel with a minimum of smoke emission.

Smoke emission is not only bad in itself, because it pollutes the atmosphere and deposits soot, but it is a measure of the extent to which coal is wastefully consumed.

Smoke is formed of unconsumed particles of carbon, which should have been raised to ignition temperature to release heat instead of being belched into the atmosphere to waste and pollute.

Adoption of the Smoke Prevention byelaw gives practical support to the movement to secure clean air. It has ensured that from the date the byelaw had effect, all new buildings at Herne Bay are equipped with smokeless, or relatively smokeless, means of cooking and heating.

Prevention of atmospheric pollution has been greatly assisted by the Clean Air Act, 1956. It empowers Local Authorities by order, subject to approval by the Ministry concerned, to declare "smoke control areas" in which the emission of smoke from chimneys will constitute an offence. This procedure is not necessary at Herne Bay, but it has helped greatly towards a purer atmosphere in London and other large cities.

The Council is a member of the London and Home Counties Clean Air Advisory Council. The purposes of the Advisory Council is to encourage smoke abatement in London and the Home Counties.

SHOPS ACT, 1950 (Revised)

This Act is concerned with the closing hours for shops and with the health and comfort of shop workers.

For many years the day of the weekly half holiday has been fixed at Herne Bay by local orders - Wednesday at Herne and Broomfield, and Thursday elsewhere in the Urban District.

From 5th November, 1965, these orders ceased to apply, and traders have been free to choose their own early closing day, previously known as the "weekly half holiday".

The Shops (Early Closing Days) Act, 1965, which introduced this change, revoked local orders which have been in force at Herne Bay since 1913.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963 (Revised)

This new Act is described as "an Act to make fresh provision for securing the health, safety, and welfare of persons employed to work in office or shop premises, and provision for securing the health, safety and welfare of persons employed to work in certain railway premises". For the first time there is effective legislation for ensuring reasonable working conditions and sanitary accommodation at offices.

The Act came into operation on 1st August, 1964, and applies to all businesses employing staff. The initial procedure during the period 1st May - 31st July, 1964, was for all occupiers of such businesses to register their premises with the local authority.

There are 315 registered premises in Herne Bay covering offices, retail shops, warehouses, catering establishments, staff canteens, and fuel storage depots. Employed in these premises are 930 males and 520 females.

The initial inspection of the whole of the registered premises has been completed and reinspections are proceeding to check that necessary works, and improvements, have been attended to.

114 (i.e. 36.2%) of the premises were satisfactory in all respects. Of the remainder notices were served to bring the premises up to the minimum standard.

Listed below is a general summary of items found, on inspection, to warrant improvement, or the provision of amenities, expressed as a percentage of the total number of registered premises:

First Aid materials	42.2
Handrails to stairs and openings in floors	6.7
Redecoration and cleanliness	14.0
Artificial light for W.C. compartments	15.6
Obstructions on stairs and passages	2.5
Provision of hot running water	21.3
Improvement of heating	6.4
Provision of thermometers	10.1
Improvement of ventilation to working areas	5.4
Structural defects to working areas and W.C. compartments	7.9
Improvement of artificial illumination to offices, shops, corridors and stairs	3.5
Provision of seating accommodation	0.3
Provision of drinking water	0.6
Additional sanitary accommodation	3.5
Inadequate sanitary facilities	2.5
Inadequate guarding of dangerous machinery	0.6
Overcrowding of office accommodation	2.2
Accommodation for outdoor clothing	0.3

Occupiers are required to notify to the local authority any accidents which occur to their staff whilst at work. To date, three accidents have been notified to this authority. Two occurred at the same office, i.e. one female fell off her chair whilst taking dictation and fractured her ankle, the other involved a young lady tripping down a step in a "split-level" corridor and severely spraining her wrist. The third accident involved a trainee grocer whilst cleaning a bacon slicer, and severely cut his finger. The guards have to be removed from machines for cleansing and this is when the accident occurred. No prosecutions were recommended for any of the accidents notified.

A total of 740 visits and inspections have been made since the commencement of the Act to premises. The Act has been administered by one inspector who devotes most of his time to this work, and to inspection of food premises.

The general impression gained from occupiers is that the new Act is welcomed. Many remember the adverse working conditions of their younger days.

DIRTY CONDITIONS AND ERADICATION OF VERMIN (Revised)

During the year dirty conditions were dealt with at four houses.

Over the years I have noted much improvement in the general standard of cleanliness but the occasional very dirty house is encountered. Sometimes it is an old person who lives alone; he or she is no longer able to cope with cleaning, and is unwilling to accept help from others. At other times it is the "problem family" where lack of cleanliness is accompanied by neglected garden and a general disregard of all the standards which make people acceptable as neighbours and tenants.

The County Domestic Help Service is available and a little regular help from this Service makes it possible for many old people to retain their independence much longer than would otherwise be possible.

Verminous houses are rarely encountered. No bugs were dealt with, but a dwelling house was treated for fleas. Care is taken to avoid possibility of introducing vermin into Council houses by inspection of furniture and effects of incoming tenants when that is necessary.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 (Revised)

Tables giving the prescribed particulars required to be furnished by Section 153 (1) of the Factories Act, 1961, are included at the end of the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

There were 86 inspections of factories, and visits to outworkers homes. This was to ensure that the "outwork" (in this case the making of wearing apparel and artificial flowers) was carried out under satisfactory conditions.

Sanitary accommodation is now required at building sites. At one of these the contractor had not made satisfactory arrangements until required to do so.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES
(Revised)

The Public Health Act, 1936, provided for the licensing of caravans and sites for moveable dwellings. At Herne Bay 11 holiday camping sites were licensed under that Act. In addition there were two sites operated by the Council at Reculver which do not require to be licensed.

In August, 1960, control of caravan sites passed from the Public Health Act to a new Act, the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. Tents and moveable dwellings other than caravans are still controlled by the Public Health Act, 1936.

In previous annual reports I have explained the object of the new Act, and the advantages introduced. I also referred to the Circular which accompanied the Act, and explains its objects.

A most important provision of the new Act is the power of the Minister to prescribe "Model Standards" with respect to layout of caravan sites, provision of facilities, services, and equipment. Local authorities, in deciding the conditions to attach to a site licence shall have regard to any standards so specified. This applies with equal emphasis when local authorities are considering the conditions of any caravan sites they may own and operate.

Model Standards have, in fact, been prescribed under the new Act. These were set out in full in my report for 1962.

Existing caravan sites at Herne Bay fell short of the Model Standards in the following respects. Most of them required:-

- (a) Reduction in number of caravans.
- (b) Construction of additional toilet facilities. Provision of baths or showers and of laundry facilities.
- (c) Construction of roads.
- (d) Provision of suitably surfaced car park.
- (e) Provision of a dustbin and chemical fire extinguisher at each caravan.

- (f) Increase in the number of water points and drainage disposal points.
- (g) Some sites are deficient in recreation space. This deficiency will be automatically remedied as the number of caravans is reduced.

The Public Health and Housing Committee has phased the implementation of the Model Standards so that they would not have full effect until 1965. This allowed a "standstill" for one year and four further years for a "run down" in the number of caravans where reduction has to take place upon an existing site.

The intention was to avoid hardship to the site owner and to the caravan owner. There is a natural wastage each year as caravans are taken from a site for various reasons. The extent to which the reduction has been achieved in this way avoids hardship.

The Council's new licence conditions contain not only the Model Standards, but also the local provisions which have been found to be necessary during the many years we have had experience in the control of caravan sites.

The following table shows the caravan sites which are licensed under the new Act. The figures in the second column show the number of caravans permitted at each site. Those in the third column show the increase or reduction at each site necessary to reach the number of caravans permitted by the licence.

At some sites it will be noted that there is an increase in the number of caravans instead of a reduction. This occurs where a site is not yet fully developed, or where planning consent has been given for the site to be enlarged.

At all licensed sites, the excess caravans have been removed.

REGISTER OF SITE LICENCES (Revised)

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960
(Section 25)

Number of caravan sites	14
Number of caravans	1,657
Estimated population	5,000

Site	Area in Acres (Unless otherwise stated)	Number of caravans permitted by licence	Reduction or increase in the number of caravans to reach the permitted number (May 1965)
Municipal (East)	13.5	362 (revised)	Correct
Municipal (West)	7.7	175	+ 9
Hillborough Caravan Park	19	400 (increased by 2)	- 30
Glen Court, Beltinge	34,770 sq. ft. + 3,477 sq. ft. (recreation space)	43 (increased by 18)	- 1
Cliff Pavilion, Beltinge	3.738	94	- 1
Coastguard Camping Site	1	50	Correct number
Orchard Camping Site	2.275	57	- 4
Reculver House	2.702	68	- 10
Waterways, Reculver	3.816	95	- 6
Hoathwood, Herne	3.971	171 (increased by 71)	- 6
Seaside Caravan Park	1.833	46	Correct number
Westbrook Farm	2.6	65	Correct number
Keat Farm	3.2 (approx.)	75	- 16
Huntsman and Horn	1 (approx.)	21	- 2

Note

- (a) The site at Keat Farm was licensed under the above Act for the first time in 1963.
- (b) All the above caravan sites are "holiday" sites. Licences permit occupation of caravans from 1st March until 31st October in each year.

Implementation of Licence Conditions (New)

There has been considerable improvement at all caravan sites since new licence conditions were imposed. Concrete roads and car parks, as well as buildings for sufficient toilets, ablution, and laundry, are now a feature of most caravan sites. Inevitably there are a few which have lagged behind and action has been taken concerning two of these. Additional conditions have been attached to their licences setting a time limit for the completion of outstanding works. This is not harsh since five years have already been allowed for the work to be carried out.

Municipal Caravan Park, Reculver - East and West Sites (Repeated)

The Camp Manager is responsible for the day to day control of both sites. In 1961 following meetings of a sub-committee to consider the application of Model Standards, it was decided to commence implementing these standards by providing additional water closets within existing buildings at both sites.

Since then, additional toilet blocks have been constructed upon the East site and the concrete road has been extended. The number of caravans upon both sites has been reduced. The future programme provides for improved water supply, and an additional toilet block upon the West site.

Camping at sites which are not licensed (Repeated)

During school holidays numerous tented camps are set up by Youth Organisations which are exempt from the licensing requirements of the Public Health Act. These are generally well organised and conducted.

There are a few caravans which are not at licensed sites. Most of these are exempt from licensing requirements.

Abbotswood Estate at the West End of the town was sold as small building plots many years ago but has not been developed. There are a few caravans and a number of sheds which are used for holidays during the summer.

The Council has refused to permit any more caravans upon the site.

INSECT PESTS (Revised)

87 applications were received and dealt with for the destruction of various insect pests including bugs, fleas, flies, cockroaches, ants, furniture beetles, wasps, and caterpillars of the brown tail moth.

Cockroaches are often troublesome at hotel and restaurant kitchens. Assistance has been given at these premises and at hospitals and children's homes where infestation has occurred.

There is a problem of furniture beetle (woodworm) at Council houses. This is being dealt with by direct labour.

The refuse tip at Broomfield is regularly treated for destruction of flies.

RODENT CONTROL (Revised)

A free service is provided by the Council for the destruction of rats and mice at private dwellings. A charge is made at business premises, including farms.

During the year under review, 294 premises were treated for destruction of rats and mice. All adjoining premises were surveyed to ascertain the extent of infestations reported or discovered. A total of 2,028 visits were made for survey of premises and treatment where rats were found.

Rat destruction is not a haphazard process. A standard technique is carefully followed, and advantage is taken of new poisons and improved methods as these are developed by the Research Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, whose assistance I am pleased to acknowledge. Efforts of neighbouring local authorities are co-ordinated and joint meetings are held from time to time (usually twice a year).

Treatment was applied for rat destruction at:

Private dwellings	216
Business premises	29
Agricultural premises	9
Broomfield tip	12
May Street Sewage Works	4
Roadside ditches, beach hut sites, caravan sites, and undeveloped land were also treated.	

Treatment for destruction of mice was applied at:

Private dwellings	19
Business premises	5

15 major rat infestations were dealt with at various premises. Seven were at Broomfield tip.

Note

Where the estimated "kill" exceeds 12 rats, it is considered to be a "major" infestation. Where the kill is less than 12, the infestation is considered to be "minor". All beach hut sites at the East and West beaches were baited at the end of the season. A few infestations were discovered and dealt with at the 533 beach huts.

The Council's refuse tip at Broomfield is treated regularly each month throughout the year for rat destruction. A refuse tip is a special attraction to rats.

Agricultural land and premises are systematically surveyed throughout the district. In the autumn 20 farms were surveyed for detection of rat infestation. 11 farms were clear, 7 farms had light infestation, and at 2 farms there were heavy infestations. Some local farmers pay for the services of the Council's Rodent Operator; others make their own arrangements to destroy rats - these must be satisfactory.

Accumulations were removed frequently from undeveloped land. They afford harbourage for rats and mice.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

It was necessary to serve a legal notice under this Act to secure the destruction of rats upon land used as a poultry farm at Thanet Way.

RAT DESTRUCTION IN SEWERS
(Revised)

Sewers are treated regularly each year for rat destruction. In June, 107 manholes were test baited. At nine of these the bait was taken. At these infested manholes the full poison treatment was applied.

Treatment of sewers for destruction of rats is considered to be important because sewer infestations so often give rise to surface infestations. If rats are to be controlled upon the surface, sewers must not escape treatment.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951
(Revised)

This Act, which came into force on the 1st November, 1951, is intended to secure the use of clean filling materials. For this purpose, a local authority must grant licences and certificates after carrying out the necessary inspections. Very little rag flock is now used.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT
(Revised)

Many complaints were received from residents concerning noise at a local dance hall, especially at weekends. These included a petition signed by 17 residents who claimed to be affected. Strong representations were made to the proprietors of the dance hall. Double glazing was installed and this seems to have been effective for no further complaints have been received.

HOUSING
(Revised)

Inspection, Repair, Closure and Demolition

(a) Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts

Primary inspections	92
Revisits	524

(b)	Number of houses found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense (includes 13 houses in the King's Road Phase III area)	25
(c)	Number of houses at which defects were remedied by informal action	45
(d)	Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices under the Public Health Act and Housing Act	8
(e)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	3
(f)	Number of houses demolished (demolition orders made in previous years)	2
(g)	Number of houses closed under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	5
(h)	Number of houses where parts were closed under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957	4
(i)	Number of houses reconditioned and undertakings or Closing Orders subsequently cancelled	1
(j)	Number of unfit houses voluntarily reconditioned by their owners	4

Notes

(e) Demolition orders were made in respect of -

69 Hunters Forstal Road, Broomfield
1 and 2 Golf Cottages, Eddington

(f) Houses demolished -

26 and 28 Lower Herne

(g) Houses in respect of which Closing Orders and/or undertakings were made prohibiting their use for human habitation -

70 Charles Street

113 Carlton Hill

83a Reculver Road

The Nook, Hampton Pier Avenue

88 Mickelburgh Hill

(represented but Closing Order or Demolition Order not yet made)

(h) Parts of houses closed -

59 William Street
72 Mortimer Street

44 Central Parade (2 parts)

(i) Houses closed as unfit for human habitation and subsequently made fit (Closing Order determined) -

25 Bullers Avenue

(j) Houses voluntarily reconditioned by their owners include 3, 4, & 5 Pond Cottages, Broomfield, which have been repaired and improved to a high standard.

"Argrav", High View Avenue, which was becoming derelict until compulsory purchase by the Council and resale to a new owner. This was a "rescue operation" to overcome a legal difficulty which was preventing the repair and occupation of the dwelling.

"SLUM" CLEARANCE

THE FIRST "FIVE YEAR PROGRAMME" (Repeated)

In 1955, 139 houses were surveyed and 65 of them were scheduled as unfit. They were dealt with by demolition or closure, during a five year period 1955/60. During the same period, a further 43 houses were found to be unfit for human habitation and were closed or demolished. These had not been included in the 5 year programme. The survey was carried out by all local authorities as a requirement of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

In this programme, 9 unfit houses at Herne were the subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order.

THE KING'S ROAD CLEARANCE AREA (PHASE I) (Revised)

This Clearance Area comprises Nos. 74 - 90 King's Road (9 houses), Nos. 14 - 17 Queen Street (4 houses), and Snow Cottage, Beach Street. It was represented in June 1959, and a Compulsory Purchase Order was confirmed after a local Public Enquiry.

All tenants had been rehoused by 1962, and the fifteen houses were demolished in early 1964 to allow the Council to redevelop the site. By the end of 1965, Elizabeth Court, the town's first multi-storey flats, were nearing completion (27 two bedroom flats).

THE KING'S ROAD CLEARANCE AREA (PHASE II)
(Revised)

This area was represented in 1962 when it was resolved to make a Compulsory Purchase Order. This was confirmed in July 1965 after a Public Enquiry. By the end of that year, all but three of the tenants had been rehoused. It has been decided to redevelop the site with more multi-storey flats.

It is hoped to commence redevelopment in 1966.

The Phase II area includes the following houses:-

King's Road	7 houses
Queen Street	8 houses
William Street	1 house

In addition to these, three houses which were not unfit were purchased at Queen Street for demolition to enable the site as a whole to be redeveloped.

THE KING'S ROAD CLEARANCE AREA (PHASE III)
(New)

This is an area upon the south side of King's Road containing thirteen unfit houses which were the subject of an Official Representation under Section 42 of the Housing Act, in October, 1965. This is the final phase of the King's Road Clearance Area.

THE SECOND "FIVE YEAR PROGRAMME"
(Revised)

Upon completion of the first five year programme (1955-60) the Council was required to prepare a second five year programme for the clearance of unfit houses. The King's Road Phase II and Phase III Clearance Areas will complete that second programme.

HOUSING ACT, 1957 - OVERCROWDING
(Revised)

1. Number of new cases of overcrowding recorded
during the year 9 *
2. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved
during the year 8

*These do not all constitute overcrowding as legally defined.

IMPROVEMENTS AND CONVERSIONS
(Revised)

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959

HOUSING ACT, 1961 and 1964

These Acts deal with improvement grants which were introduced as long ago as 1949 in the Housing Act of that year. For many years very little use was made of the legislation authorising the making of improvement grants despite constant encouragement by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Basically the grants are intended to be used to improve and modernise the older type of houses which are structurally sound but lack amenities. Grants are also available for the conversion of the larger type of old dwelling which is structurally sound and can be converted to more than one separate habitation.

In 1959 a new system of "standard" grants was introduced to supplement the existing system of improvement grants.

The new "standard" grants are intended to assist with the cost of installing what might be called "standard amenities", i.e.

Bath
Water closet
Wash-hand basin
Hot water supply
Foodstore

Grant for a standard amenity can be claimed as a right subject to the house having a certain life, and to it being in a reasonable state of fitness for habitation. This introduced a new principle. The earlier type of grant, which remains for larger improvements and conversions, is at the discretion of a local authority. Discretionary grants must not exceed 50% of the cost of improvement works, with a maximum of £400 per unit. In certain circumstances, grants of £500 per unit can now be made.

The total number of applications approved during 1965 for both types of grant was 37, being two less than for 1964. Thirteen applications were received for standard improvement grants - in 1964 there were six applications. Grants paid during the year amounted to £7,005, being £2,380 more than the grants paid in 1964.

The Housing Act, 1961, increased the amount of permitted rent increase for improvements from 8% to 12½% per annum of the amount spent upon the improvements by the owner. The response of owners to this new inducement has been disappointing.

Most applications for both types of grant are received from owner-occupiers. Very few landlords will improve houses for their tenants and it has been clear for a long time that the object of improvement grants will not be achieved unless there is some measure of compulsion. This has now been introduced by the Housing Act, 1964.

The new Act provides for the compulsory improvement of houses to provide the standard amenities referred to above. The purpose is to secure the improvement of the worthwhile older houses within the next ten years.

Local authorities are able to compel owners to improve tenanted dwellings in improvement areas and at tenement blocks; also elsewhere at the request of tenants.

The Minister has commented that the introduction of compulsion should not mean the abandonment of voluntary improvement of dwelling houses. It is still desirable that as many houses as possible should be improved by consent.

Under the new legislation it is the duty of every local authority to inspect its area to select streets or districts for compulsory improvement.

The Act provides for a reduced standard of compulsory improvement at houses not capable of full improvement with the five standard amenities.

There is a somewhat lengthy and involved procedure for dealing with houses requiring improvement in an "improvement area".

Members will know that a survey of houses believed to lack standard amenities was carried out after the issue of Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 42/62.

A total of 931 houses were visited and 474 of them were found to have been provided with the standard amenities they lacked when constructed. These were nearly all owner-occupied. The balance of 457 houses were found to be in need of standard improvements as follows:-

Houses requiring a fixed bath or shower in a bathroom	282
Houses requiring an internal W.C.	200
Houses requiring a wash basin	316
Houses requiring a hot water system	350
Houses requiring a satisfactory foodstore	307

To follow up the survey a letter was sent to each owner setting out the improvements needed at his dwelling. The letter informed him of the grant which would be available and offered all possible assistance by the Public Health Department. The Council also offered to make loans available for improvement works in satisfactory cases.

Response to this appeal was poor, two applications only were received from owners of houses which had been surveyed. This poor response supports the view that no real advance with the improvement of out of date houses is likely until a measure of compulsion is introduced.

The above information of the number of houses requiring improvement will be valuable when compulsory action is taken to secure standard improvements. (It is expected that a start can be made with compulsory improvement of houses in 1966.)

The following improvement grants were dealt with during 1965:-

Schemes submitted and approved

	<u>No. of Dwellings</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Grant Authorised</u>
		£	£
Discretionary Grants			
Conversions	7	4,423	} 4,662
Improvements	17	10,475	
Standard Grants	13	3,720	1,576

Grants paid

	<u>No. of Grants</u>	<u>Total Paid</u> £
Discretionary	25	6,298
Standard	7	<u>707</u>
		<u>7,005</u>

Note

The total grants paid in 1964 amounted to £4,625, in respect of 15 discretionary, and 6 standard grants.

Housing Societies (Revised)

The new Housing Act gives strong support to Housing Societies in their non-profit making work of providing houses for those who do not seek house ownership. Housing Societies do not compete with local authorities which are asked to give them all possible assistance. At Herne Bay there is one Housing Society, viz. the Abbeyfield (Herne Bay) Society which has a house at Station Road adapted for occupation as six flats. This was followed by the purchase of a second house at Victoria Park. Here, too, six flats have been provided.

The Abbeyfield Society provides each tenant with a main meal each day. This is a great help to persons in advanced old age who are not always able to fully look after themselves. The Society is able to help with the housing and welfare of those who could not be assisted by the local Council, which has to operate a system of selection of tenants which often excludes the type of person who can be assisted by the Abbeyfield Society. Valuable work has been done by the Society in rehousing elderly widows who have been able to sell their under-occupied houses and enable them to be re-occupied by families - thus helping the general housing situation.

Improvements at Council Houses (Revised)

I have referred in previous reports to the 132 pre-war houses which require standard improvements. These houses have been inspected to ascertain the nature of the improvements required.

These are as follows:-

- (a) Hot water systems with draw off taps over bath, sink and wash basin.
- (b) Wash basins.
- (c) Provision of door and frame in rear entrance passages.
- (d) Internal water closets.

It was found that:-

10 houses at Margate Road required (a), (b) above.

62 houses at Stanley Gardens	}	Require (a), (b) and (c) above.
10 " " Claremont Street		
1 house at Park Road		

11 houses at Claremont Street	}	Require (a), (b) and (d) above.
13 " " Clarendon Street		
7 " " Grafton Rise		
4 " " Park Road		

14 houses at Windsor Villas, Sea Street, require (b) above.

During 1963, the ten pre-war houses at Margate Road were improved at a cost of £1,060. During 1965, work was in progress upon 14 pre-war houses at Windsor Villas, Sea Street.

At Margate Road, the work was carried out by private contract. At Sea Street the work was carried out by direct labour in the Surveyor's Department.

The remaining 108 pre-war houses (New)

It has been decided to improve these by direct labour at an approximate cost of £35,000, of which £25,000 is likely to qualify for government grant. There are five different types of houses to improve and it has been decided to improve one of each as a sample. This will allow of any amendments found in practice to be desirable, and it will provide accurate information as to costs.

It is proposed to improve the houses when vacant for it is impossible, without considerable loss of working time, to reconstruct kitchens with tenants in occupation. It is intended to arrange for a steady stream of vacant pre-war houses so that work can proceed continuously to complete the improvement of

108 houses in about three years. Houses to be improved under this scheme are as follows:-

Stanley Gardens	62 houses
Sea Street Estate	41 "
Park Road	5 "

RENT ACT. 1957
(Revised)

This Act, which raised much controversy, came into operation on 6th July, 1957. Briefly, it decontrols certain houses and allows the rents of others to be increased subject to reasonable repair.

A tenant can serve upon the landlord a notice setting out particulars of the repairs considered necessary. After a period of 6 weeks, if the landlord and tenant have not agreed upon what is to be done, and no undertaking has been given by the landlord, application can be made to the Council for a "Certificate of Disrepair".

When such a certificate is granted the tenant can make certain rent deductions until it is cancelled upon completion of the necessary works.

Very little use is now made of the Act by tenants to secure Certificates of Disrepair - it is several years since an application was received.

RENT ACT. 1965
(New)

This Act came into operation on 5th December, 1965. Basically, the existing system of control of tenancies remains unchanged, but there is an important change affecting transmission of a tenancy upon the death of a tenant.

For the purpose of this Act, the country is divided into "rent assessment areas" corresponding to Counties, etc. In each area one or more Rent Officers are appointed. The Rent Officer for the area which includes Herne Bay has his office at Margate. Rent Assessment Committees are also established under the Act to consider appeals concerning rents.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES
(Revised)

Some functions under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, are performed by Kent County Council. These include sampling of articles of food and drink for adulteration.

MILK
(Revised)

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

Every local authority is required under these Regulations to keep a register of the following:-

- (a) Dairies, except those at dairy farms.
- (b) Distributors of milk.

The number registered at Herne Bay at the end of 1965 was:-

(a) Dairies	-	None
(b) Distributors	-	73

Only five of the 73 distributors sell milk as their main trade. 7 of these were registered during 1965 at premises where milk had not previously been sold. There were changes of occupier at 16 premises where milk had previously been sold. This required registration of the new occupier. All the milk sold at Herne Bay is bottled at premises elsewhere.

The remaining 68 distributors trade mainly in groceries and general provisions selling bottled milk as a "side line". These are encouraged to keep bottled milk in their refrigerators pending sale. Any milk unsold on the day of delivery to the distributors should be collected by the supplier.

Herne Bay is in an area where all milk must be pasteurised, sterilised, or be raw milk from Tuberculin Tested cows.

A licence, valid for 5 years, to sell milk under Special Designation must be obtained from the Kent County Council which is the licensing authority under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1960. A licence will not be granted until the applicant has been registered with the District Council as a Distributor.

Examination of Samples (Revised)

The following samples of milk were collected and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Maidstone for examination:

Designation of Milk	No. of samples taken	Satisfied the test	Failed the test
<u>Pasteurised</u>			
Methylene blue test	10	10	None
<u>Sterilised</u>	1	1	None

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS (Repeated)

Meat Inspection and Slaughter Arrangements

At the outbreak of war there were four licensed slaughterhouses in use at Herne Bay. By the end of 1956 there remained only one licensed slaughterhouse, and it had not been used since 1939.

That remaining licence was allowed to lapse at the end of 1959, when the ownership of the premises changed. The new owner intimated that he was not prepared to carry out the extensive alterations and improvements which would be necessary.

Licences of the four unsatisfactory slaughterhouses at Herne Bay have thus been allowed to lapse over a period of years, with no hardship or inconvenience to their owners, and no payment of compensation by the Council.

I have explained in previous annual reports the many phases which led up to the present position. It is sufficient now to record that the Council was much concerned in the early post-war period about the four rather poor licensed slaughterhouses at Herne Bay, and about the whole question of the slaughtering needs of the district.

Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order, 1959 (Revised)

Under the above Order, it was resolved by the Council that in the Herne Bay area the existing and probable future requirements for slaughterhouse facilities, are adequately met by the Canterbury Abattoir. This decision was reached after consultation with local butchers.

Meat Transport (Repeated)

The transport of meat is controlled by legislation. Meat vans are inspected from time to time when seen unloading in the town. Representations have been made which have secured improvements in transport and handling of meat. Some well designed vans are now in use.

Unsound Food (Revised)

During the year, 666 lbs. of food of all kinds was found to be unfit for human consumption and was surrendered by various traders. Although carcasses and organs of animals are inspected at the Abattoir when slaughtered, conditions are occasionally met with at butchers' shops which could not be detected at time of slaughter. The above figure of unsound food relates mostly to tinned food, but includes 152 lbs. of home killed meat and meat products. It also includes 32 lbs. of fish.

Condemned food is disposed of by burial.

The Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations (Repeated)

These Regulations came into force upon 1st November, 1960. They require all butchers meat, and imported meat which is unfit for human food, to be sterilised, and all knackers meat to be stained or sterilised, before entering the chain of distribution.

This gives greater control over the disposal of unsound butchers meat, and knacker meat, much of which is supplied to retailers of pets meat. At a pet shop, the retailer has to ensure that all raw knacker meat is stained at the time of sale.

Dogs in Food Shops (New)

Most food traders are as anxious as health authorities to keep dogs out of food premises, but traders are reluctant to risk offending their customers by a direct approach. Action by the Public Health Department was, therefore, welcome. This has taken the form of a stencilled transfer which adheres to the glass front, or glass door, of a shop. The notice is worded as a request by the Herne Bay Urban District Council that dogs are not taken into the food shop. This removes any irritation a dog-loving customer may feel if the request is made by the trader. Most customers appreciate the efforts to keep dogs out of food shops.

THE FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960
(Revised)

Food premises at Herne Bay

230

In previous annual reports I have outlined the action taken since Food Hygiene Regulations came into operation on 1st January, 1956. All food premises were then inspected and they have since been revisited from time to time to secure compliance with legal requirements. The original Regulations have been amended and consolidated in the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

Premises and equipment continue to be brought up to the required standard, indeed many have exceeded the minimum legal standards imposed by the Regulations.

Improvements resulting from the Hygiene Regulations are set out upon page 34.

670 visits were made during 1965 to inspect food premises.

Offences for which warnings were given

Moth in tin of black currants	1
Oil in bread	1
Mould in pork pie, bread, sausages	4
Smoking whilst handling "open" food	2
Cockroaches in lardy bun	1
Galvanised wire in toffee	1
Contaminated milk bottle	1
Dog in bakehouse	1
Adhesive wound dressing in jar of cockles	1

Prosecution

The Council decided to prosecute in the case of the wound dressing in a jar of cockles. The trader was fined 15 guineas, and 10 guineas costs.

Food Hygiene - Codes of Practice (Repeated)

The Minister of Health, jointly with the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, prepared and issued codes of practice relating to hygiene in the retail meat trade, and the hygienic transport and handling of meat. These were followed by similar codes of practice for the fish trade. It is hoped that these extremely useful codes of practice will be followed by others.

Hygiene by common consent is more likely to succeed than hygiene imposed by legislation, although it has to be available in the last resort for those who will not respond to persuasion.

Ice Cream (Revised)

Premises at which ice cream is manufactured or sold are subject to control by the Food and Drugs Act. The manufacture and sale of ice cream is also controlled by the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, and the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

At the end of 1965 a total of 130 premises were registered for the sale of ice cream, and two for the manufacture and sale of ice cream. During the year, five new registrations were approved.

In addition to the above, ice cream is sold at Cafes, Inns, and Restaurants, which do not require to be registered under the Food and Drugs Act.

"Lollipops" are manufactured at two premises, but these do not require to be registered for that purpose. It is the policy to encourage traders selling wrapped ice cream to provide litter receptacles upon their premises. This helps considerably in keeping wrappers off the pavements outside ice cream premises.

"Soft" ice cream has now become very popular. At the Annual Conference of the Association of Public Health Inspectors at Southport the following resolution was adopted:-

"That in view of recent developments in the manufacture of soft ice cream, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, be urged to review the legislation governing the manufacture, storage and sale of this product."

Examination of Samples (Revised)

15 samples were submitted for pathological examination during the year with the following results:-

No. of Samples	Classification in Grades
6	Grade I
8	" II
0	" III
1	" IV

These results can be regarded as satisfactory. The samples were taken from local manufacturers and from "soft" ice cream dispensers. These sources are more prone to contamination than a national brand of wrapped ice cream.

The Food Standards (Ice Cream) Regulations, 1959, prescribe standards of composition for ice cream, Dairy Ice cream, Dairy Cream ice, or Cream ice, and Parev (Kosher) ice. The addition of artificial sweetener to ice cream of any description is prohibited.

The Regulations replace the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953. They prescribe amended standards of composition for ice cream and "Parev" (Kosher) ice and introduce separate standards of composition for dairy ice cream and milk ice. Alternative standards are prescribed for certain descriptions of ice cream containing fruit, fruit pulp, or fruit puree.

REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES (Revised)

In addition to the registered dairies and ice cream premises already referred to, the following food premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act:-

Premises for preparation and manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale	33
--	----

Fried fish shops	5
------------------------	---

Food Hygiene at Licensed Premises (New)

The inspection of licensed premises was started during the year. There are 34 public houses and licensed hotels in the town. The standards of the houses are generally good, with particular attention paid by the licensees to the use of detergent sterilants for glass washing.

Many beer cellars are damp, especially after a rainy period when the water table rises. Moderate dampness in a beer cellar is not unwelcome - it helps to keep beer cool.

Local Government Act, 1894 - Section 27 (Revised)

Game Licence

A licence to sell game was granted under the above Act to a fishmonger. Two licences are required by every dealer in game, namely, a Revenue Licence granted by the County Council under the Finance Act, 1908, and a licence granted by the District Council under the Local Government Act, 1894. The applicant has to obtain a licence from the District Council before the County Council will grant a Revenue Licence.

HEALTH EDUCATION (Revised)

The Council is a member of the Central Council for Health Education, and the London and Home Counties Clean Air Advisory Council.

The Chief Public Health Inspector attended as a delegate at the Annual Conference of the Association of Public Health Inspectors at Blackpool.

Local organisations have been addressed upon various aspects of the work of the Public Health Department.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957 (Revised)

The administration of the above Order has been delegated by the Kent County Council to the Herne Bay Urban District Council.

The Order requires the licensing of plant to ensure the efficient boiling of waste foods intended to be used for feeding pigs and poultry.

HOUSING MANAGEMENT

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION OWNED BY THE COUNCIL (Revised)

By the end of 1965, the Council owned 856 houses, prefabs and flats.

Pre-war Houses - 163

3 bedrooms - 159

4 bedrooms - 4

Post-war Houses - 429

2 bedrooms - 92

3 bedrooms - 323

4 bedrooms - 14

Temporary Prefabricated Bungalows - 49

2 bedrooms - 49

Post-war Flats - 200

1 bedroom - 88

2 bedrooms - 112

"Other" Houses, Bungalows and Flats - 15

(Properties acquired by the Council other than by new construction but does not include cottages at May Street Sewage Works)

Houses (at Reculver) - 3

Bungalows (at Churchill Avenue) - 2

Flats, resulting from
conversion of houses - 10

NEW HOUSES ERECTED AND UNDER CONSTRUCTION (Revised)

There were no new houses or flats erected by the Council during the year. At December 1965, the Council's first multi-storey flats were nearing completion at King's Road. They were not let until after the end of the year, so the 27 two bedroom flats are not shown as completed units for the year 1965. Other flats were under construction by the Council, viz. 8 single bedroom flats at Sunnyhill Road, and 3 single and 3 two bedroom flats at Clarendon Street.

The following table gives the new construction of houses and flats by the Council, and by private enterprise for the year 1965.

Houses and flats erected by :	Number erected	Number under construction
The Local Authority	Nil	41
Other bodies and persons	167	163
TOTALS	167	204

Purposes of house building by local authorities (Revised)

Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 55/61 sets out the main purposes for which local authorities should continue to build houses. These are for:-

Slum Clearance

The elderly

Overspill

Relief of overcrowding and bad housing conditions

General need (added by Circular 21/65)

Each year there is a meeting of the Public Health and Housing Committee at which the future building programme is decided. At that meeting information is available as to the number of applicants upon the general waiting list, and the number of families to be rehoused from unfit houses. Accommodation, which we know from experience will probably be given up during the next year, is taken into account in considering how the various needs can be satisfied.

For several years it has been the policy to construct flats. These are cheaper to build, and they can be used to release under-occupied houses. Flats are also required for the many elderly applicants.

High building costs, high rates of interest, high cost of land, combine to make building very expensive. This is a considerable deterrent to the building of houses for general need - a category added in 1965.

To a large extent we rely upon termination of tenancies of Council houses and flats to supply accommodation for general need.

Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 21/65 (New)

This Circular issued in 1965 has two purposes. It required the submission of programmes for house building for the next four years including 1965, and it focussed attention upon industrialised building.

I dealt comprehensively with the Circular and its effect upon the Council's future building programme in my report to the Public Health and Housing Committee.

In this Circular the Minister states that "local authorities have not been encouraged to create a pool of rented houses available for families needing them outside the priority classes. Each specific need in the priority classes must retain a high priority but, in addition, it is considered to be essential to tackle the overall shortage of houses at moderate rents. This is described as a "general need" which the Minister is prepared to consider as well as the specific need of the various priority classes."

HOUSING REGISTER
(Revised)

The register at the end of the year 1965 contained the names of 453 applicants; all but 23 of these were local residents. The 23 non-residents qualify as applicants because they are employed at Herne Bay, and live elsewhere, or are serving in H.M. Forces. 140 of these applicants had registered for less than a year.

The number on the waiting list has remained remarkably steady for several years, but with a slight tendency to increase. The number of families on the waiting list requiring houses and the number of old people requiring flats are roughly in equal proportions.

The most genuine and urgent need for housing accommodation still exists among young people who are struggling to raise families in a couple of rooms. Often these are in their parents' homes with all the friction which inevitably arises from shared kitchens, etc.

Other reasons for seeking Council accommodation have been referred to in my previous annual reports as under:-

- (a) Rents increase, and the insecurity which resulted from the Rent Act, 1957.

- (b) The construction by the Council of attractive flats has stimulated a flow of new applications from many elderly people who had not previously considered applying for Council accommodation. Many of these are having to pay higher rent increases than they can afford, and others are finding it difficult to live in large houses they cannot maintain.

The following table shows the position of the housing register since 1951:

December 1951	-	495	applicants
" 1952	-	512	"
" 1953	-	323	"
" 1954	-	346	"
" 1955	-	317	"
" 1956	-	260	"
" 1957	-	305	"
" 1958	-	355	"
" 1959	-	397	"
" 1960	-	413	"
" 1961	-	384	"
" 1962	-	388	"
" 1963	-	380	"
" 1964	-	396	"
" 1965	-	453	" (reduced to 418 early in 1966 after visiting for a review of applicants)

We know from our records that approximately half the number of persons who make application for housing accommodation are never considered. By the time their applications are due for consideration they have left the town or have solved their housing problems without the Council's assistance. This knowledge enables one to assess the true significance of the number of persons upon the waiting list at any given time.

Policy in the selection of tenants (Revised)

Over the years a policy has been formulated in the selection of tenants. In May 1963, I produced a report setting out the various principles and considerations which, together, constitute this selection policy. The document is too lengthy to reproduce in this annual report but the main points are covered by the following headings:-

- (a) Basic consideration - housing need.
- (b) Balancing factors - length of residence and period of waiting.
- (c) Residence qualification before acceptance as applicant - one year.
- (d) Waiting period before consideration - at least one year.
- (e) Housing from unfit houses.
- (f) Housing of staff.
- (g) Housing of evicted families.
- (h) Housing of keyworkers in new industries.
- (i) Regular long service in H.M. Forces.
- (j) Periodical review of applications.

In 1965 Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 60/65 was received. It is concerned with the housing of regular ex-service men. The Council's policy already meets the requirements of the Circular.

RESIDENCE QUALIFICATION (Revised)

It was decided in 1961 to refuse admission to the Housing Register unless an applicant has resided in the town for at least 12 months. This requirement, together with the waiting period of 12 months before consideration of a new application, ensures that at least two years will elapse before the application of a new resident will be considered. The rule helps to prevent "queue jumping" and avoids inflation of the waiting list with names of applicants who are really temporary residents at furnished accommodation during the winter months when holiday flats are vacant.

Note

In practice, a new application is seldom considered until a lapse of two years since it was made, so a new resident would have a wait of at least three years before consideration.

Annual Review of Housing Applications (Revised)

Applicants were visited during November and December in preparation for a further review to select tenants for houses and flats. In this way, 294 applicants who had been waiting for two years or longer, were visited at their homes by the Housing Manager or his deputy. The living accommodation of every applicant was inspected to assess the need for rehousing. 61 applicants were selected for rehousing and it is hoped to deal with most of these during 1966.

HOUSING OF APPLICANTS AND TRANSFER OF TENANTS (Revised)

During the year a total of 45 houses, prefabs, and flats have been let to new tenants in the following categories:-

Applicants selected from the general housing register	25
Applicants evicted by Court Order	5
Tenants rehoused from unfit houses (including 6 from King's Road Clearance Area Phase II)	8
Council staff	6
Applicant housed by the Bridge/Blean Council (from King's Road Clearance Area under a reciprocal arrangement)	1

44 of the applicants were accommodated at houses, prefabs, and flats which became vacant for there were no new houses or flats completed during 1965. One applicant was housed at a house purchased at King's Road. Two Council houses became vacant when Court Orders were obtained to evict unsatisfactory tenants. The Council is always very reluctant to take proceedings for eviction of a tenant. This action is taken only when all other remedies have been applied and have not succeeded. In a further instance possession order was obtained but was not enforced.

16 tenants were transferred to accommodation more suitable to the needs of their growing or diminishing families or for other reasons. 4 under-occupied houses were released in this way for larger families. Three 2 bedroom flats were released for couples by transfer of tenants to single bedroom flats. Two exchanges of tenancy were permitted. One of these was a local exchange, and the other exchange was with a tenant living at Croydon.

HOUSING OF KEYWORKERS (Revised)

No "keyworkers" were housed by the Council during the year but discussions took place with a view to assistance being given to start a new industry at Lower Herne in 1966. The provision of housing for keyworkers is to assist a new industry in the initial stages when staff has to be recruited and trained.

It is interesting to note that over the years this kind of assistance has been given to establish six new industries which, together, employ nearly 500 workers.

At the commencement of these new industries help was given by the Council with the housing of 15 keyworkers.

HOUSES GIVEN UP BY TENANTS (Revised)

It will be noted under a previous paragraph that 44 tenancies were given up during 1965. This is 9 more than the number given up the previous year.

The total number includes 13 flats which became vacant upon the death of tenants, or because they were removed to residential homes, or elsewhere. It is very interesting to note that 14 Council houses were given up by tenants who had purchased their own houses. This is a trend which has been fostered and encouraged by the Public Health and Housing Committee.

As the total "stock" of Council houses and flats increases we might expect the number of vacancies to increase especially from old people's flats.

Houses given up in 1952						-	6	
" " " " 1953						-	6	
" " " " 1954						-	19	
" " " " 1955						-	23	
" " " " 1956						-	21	
" " " " 1957						-	29	
" " " " 1958						-	21	
" " " " 1959						-	14	
" " " " 1960						-	17	
Houses and flats " " " 1961						-	29	
" " " " " " 1962						-	20	
" " " " " " 1963						-	32	(16 flats 16 houses)
" " " " " " 1964						-	35	(15 flats 20 houses)
" " " " " " 1965						-	44	(13 flats 31 houses)

Removal of applicants' names from the Housing Register (Revised)

This occurred in respect of 83 applicants visited who no longer required housing accommodation by the Council, or who were found to be adequately housed at their existing accommodation. This is one of the advantages of periodical visiting.

Not only does it enable need to be more accurately assessed than would otherwise be possible, it also enables the housing register to be kept up-to-date and reliable. Very few applicants trouble to report change of addresses, or change of circumstances, unless it furthers their prospect of rehousing. To cut out the "dead wood", visiting is essential.

HOUSING OF THE ELDERLY (Revised)

Approximately half the "waiting list" comprises elderly persons of whom there are several different types. They range from the physically capable, newly retired persons of about 65 years, to those in advanced old age often in the 80 to 90 age group.

The object nowadays is to try to enable old people to live independent lives in their own homes as long as that is possible. With a little outside help, such as is provided by the Kent County Council Domestic Help Service, old people are often able to retain their independence until they reach a considerable age.

To satisfy the housing needs of old people of varying physical capacity several different types of accommodation are needed. The Council constructs two bedroom flats for elderly couples, and single bedroom flats for single elderly persons. Many of these flats are constructed at, or near, existing housing estates which makes it easier to transfer tenants from under-occupied houses when children have grown up and left home. Tenants have less objection to moving from houses to flats if they can stay in their own neighbourhood, or can be near the shops.

There is a lot to be said in favour of providing a single elderly person with a two bedroom flat. The possession of a spare bedroom enables the tenant to have friends and relatives stay for short periods. This helps to combat the loneliness and segregation which is so often a sad feature of old age. A spare room is invaluable when there is sickness.

Those in advanced old age require accommodation where they can retain independence, but not live in isolation.

An attempt to satisfy such a need was the acquisition of 139 Canterbury Road, a large house which was converted into six 2 room flats. Each flat has a bed-sitting room and a kitchen/dining room. There is a bathroom and W.C. shared by three persons, on each floor. Experience has shown that baths are not much used by many elderly tenants. A similar house is in prospect for the same kind of conversion.

The Council has a good record of providing accommodation for the aged. There is now one flat for every three houses. The building quota for 8 years has been devoted almost entirely to the construction of flats. 200 flats have been constructed in post-war building programmes and, at the end of 1965, another 41 flats were under construction.

Flats with Resident Warden (Revised)

In previous reports I have referred to the need for flats with resident warden for those in advanced old age for whom flats of the usual type are not adequate. The Council decided to construct warden assisted flats upon the former Redgate Nursery Site at Canterbury Road. Work upon this project is to commence in 1966.

RENTS AND HOUSING SUBSIDIES (Revised)

The rents of Council houses at Herne Bay are not subsidised by direct subsidy from the local rates. A local rates subsidy was withdrawn early in 1956. The Government subsidy, which has been available for slum clearance and for construction of single bedroom flats for general purposes, is now calculated upon a new basis.

Subsidies are pooled to arrive at a uniform basis of rent calculation for each house. This pooling device enables new houses and flats to be let at rents considerably lower than the economic rent which could result from the high cost of building, high cost of land, and the prevailing high interest rates.

Rents are reviewed periodically. The most recent review was in November 1964 when rent increases were adopted with effect in April 1965. This resulted in an average all-round increase of rents of 25%. The matter is dealt with fully by the Treasurer in his report of 12th November, 1964, to the Public Health and Housing Committee.

Council house rents are calculated upon the basis of gross rateable values. This is fair because it reflects amenities and other factors which determine the gross rateable value of a house.

Revised rents to apply from the 1st rent week in April 1966 are as follows:-

4 bedroom houses	- From £3. 6. 6. to £3.11. 6.
3 bedroom houses	- From £1.18. 0. to £3. 0. 4.
2 bedroom houses	- From £2. 3. 8. to £2. 7. 7.
Prefabricated bungalows	- £1.14. 0.
Flats (2 bedrooms)	- From £2. 3. 8. to £2. 4. 8.
Flats (Single bedroom)	- £1.15. 3.
139 Canterbury Road Flats	- From 17/8d. to £1. 8. 6.

UNDER-OCCUPATION AT COUNCIL HOUSES (Revised)

From time to time there is a census at Council houses to obtain information concerning overcrowding and under-occupation. Each census has revealed approximately 50 under-occupied houses, and a small amount of overcrowding. Dealing with under-occupation is a continuous process of transferring tenants from houses to flats when their children have grown up and left home. It is limited only by the accommodation available to effect transfers. Some tenants are eager to move to new flats, others can be persuaded with a little patience.

The Council meets the reasonable removal expenses of tenants who give up large Council houses, and move to smaller accommodation at the Council's request. This is a considerable help in securing the movement which is desired.

The Council adopted the following policy upon the recommendation of the Public Health and Housing Committee:-

- (a) That it is considered to be the duty of the Council to ensure that none of the houses or flats under its control are seriously under-occupied;
- (b) that tenants of under-occupied premises be encouraged to transfer to smaller accommodation when such accommodation is available;
- (c) that when such transfers take place the Council pay the reasonable cost of removal;
- (d) that the compulsory transfer of tenants to smaller accommodation will be required if necessary; it is hoped that this distasteful course will be avoided by voluntary agreement.

During 1965, four tenants voluntarily transferred from under-occupied houses to small flats. Thirteen tenants have arranged to transfer from under-occupied houses to Elizabeth Court early in 1966.

OVERCROWDING AT COUNCIL HOUSES (Revised)

To maintain reasonable housing standards a three bedroom house is not suitable for a family of more than 5 persons. If the children are very small a family unit with a maximum of 6 persons might be tolerated until the children reach an age when sex segregation becomes necessary. A two bedroom house is not suitable for more than 4 persons - only 3 persons if children are of different sexes and are above 10 years of age.

To avoid overcrowding the best use has to be made of 4 bedroom houses. There are only 18 of these houses so opportunities of rehousing large families are limited.

Some more 4 bedroom houses would be useful, as well as a few having more than 4 bedrooms for abnormally large families.

Recreation Facilities at Council Housing Estates (Revised)

In previous annual reports I have referred to the serious lack of recreation facilities at Greenhill. Playing fields are required to enable children to play organised games.

It has been decided to provide a playing field behind Rowland Drive. As a first step tenants with very long gardens at Rowland Drive were asked to agree to their curtailment. Of the 14 tenants approached, seven agreed readily, the others subsequently agreed with some reluctance.

Improvements and installations by Tenants (Repeated)

Applications of this nature are dealt with by the Housing Manager.

During the year, many of the Council's tenants have been given permission to carry out improvements to their houses at their own expense.

There is a condition that damage must be made good, or that the fitting, or other improvement, must remain at the termination of the tenancy. In this way, water heaters, sink units, modern fireplaces, etc. have been installed by tenants at no expense to the Council.

Sub-letting at Council houses (Repeated)

The Council makes a charge of 5s. 0d. a week for permitted sub-letting at Council houses, and 2s. 6d. per week in respect of lodgers, where permitted. Permission is not given if overcrowding would result.

No charge is made in respect of aged parents living with sons and daughters with no income other than a pension from the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance.

GARAGES AND CAR PARKING AT COUNCIL HOUSES (Revised)

The parking of cars is a growing problem which can be met at Council housing estates only by making suitable provisions by way of hardstandings and garages.

Roads upon housing estates are often packed with cars at night, increasing the difficulties of doctors, ambulances, and fire service vehicles should these be needed. Where there is "open front" development cars are often parked upon front lawns and forecourts with consequent damage to lawns and to the general amenities of the neighbourhood. Constant night inspection is required to prevent this from happening.

It is now a planning requirement that sufficient space is allowed for car parking at new dwellings. At the Council's new flats car parks have been provided with concrete surfaces. These are marked out, numbered, and let to tenants at a rent of 1/6d. per week, plus 5d. per week rates.

A set of conditions has been approved to apply when permission is given to a tenant to erect a garage at his own expense.

The most satisfactory solution, however, is the provision by the Council of garages which are let to tenants at rents which will cover loan repayments and rates. This, at present, amounts to 10/- per week rent, and 2/- per week rates.

The construction of garages at individual houses is now favoured, especially at houses where garages could be let separately without intrusion upon the privacy of any future tenant not requiring a garage.

Where individual garages are not possible lock-up garages are the answer for those who can afford the rent, and hardstandings for those who require something cheaper. A hardstanding at 1/1ld. per week is good value. It keeps cars off roads, and off front lawns at night. It assures a place for the car of each tenant who has rented a numbered parking space.

The building of garages by the Council is likely to result in a better overall appearance of a housing estate than could result from an assortment of tenants' garages of different materials, types and designs.

By the end of 1965, twenty lock-up garages had been constructed at the Sea Street Estate and more were sanctioned for construction at Greenhill and Herne. Individual garages have been constructed at 22 houses, 12 of these during 1965. Many more individual garages are required by tenants and await construction.

Hardstandings have been constructed at Sea Street and at Herne where more are to be provided. By the end of 1965, 15 hardstandings were rented as parking places to tenants for their cars.

Cycle Stores (Revised)

It was decided to provide cycle stores at a weekly rent of 1/6d. where these are needed at flats at which no accommodation has been provided for cycles. These neat cedar wood stores fulfil a need and prevent the cluttering of common entrances, and damage to decorations which otherwise results. The cost is covered by the rent. 17 cycle stores have been provided for this purpose.

POULTRY KEEPING AT COUNCIL HOUSES (Revised)

Regulations continue in force for the control of poultry keeping by Council tenants. Cockerels are prohibited and not more than six hens can be kept at a Council house. Hen houses must be constructed according to a standard design.

The regulations, and standard hen houses are intended to ensure that poultry is not kept so as to become an unsightly nuisance. This can so easily happen when poultry keeping is unrestricted. Very few tenants now keep poultry.

COUNCIL HOUSE GARDENS COMPETITION (Revised)

This is intended to encourage tenants to cultivate attractive gardens. The first prize is a Silver Challenge Cup held for one year by the tenant having the best front and back garden. The holder also receives a cheque for three guineas. There are second and third prizes in that class and a further three prizes, first, second and third, for houses with back gardens only.

There is a separate competition for the gardens of 14 G.L.C. bungalows at Herne for which a prize is presented by the G.L.C.

Neglected Gardens (Revised)

Neglected gardens are dealt with after a routine inspection in early summer. Occasionally it is necessary to cut down weeds etc. in default of a tenant who has to meet the cost.

In the summer of 1965, it was necessary to write to 55 tenants whose gardens were neglected and overgrown. 13 of these neglected gardens were subsequently dealt with by the Council at the tenants' expense, except in the case of 7 tenants who were excused payment because of advanced age, infirmity, and financial inability. The cost of dealing with the 13 neglected gardens was £35.10. 0. of which £17. 5. 0. was excused.

Where there are no front boundary walls, the grass forecourts are maintained by the Council and the cost met by the Council's tenants as a whole.

Greater London Council - Housing at Herne Bay (Repeated)

The Greater London Council has purchased 14 bungalows at Herne for the purpose of renting them to tenants of G.L.C. under-occupied houses urgently required for families in the London area.

The Herne Bay Urban District Council was asked to approve this arrangement, and to agree to manage the bungalows for the G.L.C. in such matters as rent collection, repairs, etc. This was agreed at an annual fee per dwelling for the services rendered.

OTHER SERVICES ETC. ADMINISTERED BY
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES
(Revised)

The Council's 13 public conveniences for men and women are under the control of the Health Department. These conveniences have approximately a million users a year.

Four public conveniences are closed during the winter months including those at the Pier Head.

Since the end of the war, two new public conveniences have been constructed and others have been improved.

Conveniences at Beltinge are likely to be constructed during 1966 after nearly ten years frustration in securing an acceptable site.

Turnstiles at Public Conveniences (Revised)

All turnstiles have been removed since they were prohibited by the Public Lavatories (Turnstile) Act, in 1963. These have been replaced by coin locks, but there are now some free facilities at most conveniences.

Washing Facilities (Revised)

From early 1965, at all of the larger public conveniences free washing facilities, with paper towel and soap, have been available. Additional wash basins have been installed for hand rinsing so as to avoid interfering with the normal wash and brush up facilities. At the smaller conveniences wash basins will be installed wherever possible. These free facilities have brought about an enormous increase in the use of washing facilities. There are slipper baths at two conveniences, one for men and the other for women. A small charge is made for their use.

Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 15/65 (New)

This Circular urges local authorities to provide free hand washing facilities at public conveniences and to encourage their use by the public. The Minister considers that this provision should now be standard practice at public convenience and also that they should be "bright and clean with a high standard of maintenance". At Herne Bay, this Circular had been implemented before it was issued.

Staffing (Revised)

There are now more cleaners and less attendants. Full staffing with attendants is arranged only in the summer season. Even during the summer, smaller conveniences are maintained by visiting cleaners to avoid the expense of employing whole time attendants. During the winter all conveniences which remain open are maintained by visiting cleaners. In this way the wages bill for cleaners and attendants has been kept to a minimum. Since 1965, an additional whole time cleaner has been employed to enable conveniences to be cleansed more frequently.

Securing seasonal staff for the conveniences has become a problem which increases the difficulties of providing a satisfactory service at reasonable cost.

Weighing Machines (Revised)

There are 12 weighing machines at the Council's public conveniences. 8 of these were installed in 1958 and the remainder in succeeding years. Receipts from these machines in 1965/66 amounted to £199.

The 12 machines cost £552 to install, and by the end of the financial year 1965-66 the total receipts amounted to £2,304. This shows a substantial profit after deduction of the cost of the machines which will continue to earn revenue for many years before they will need to be replaced. It has been decided to set aside a percentage of the profits each year to build up a fund for replacement of weighing machines when this becomes necessary. Prior to the purchase of weighing machines by the Council £7 per annum was received for the concession to place privately owned machines at the Council's conveniences.

Weights and Measures Act, 1963 (New)

Verification and Stamping of Person Weighers

To comply with this Act the Council's weighing machines are required to be overhauled before testing and stamping. This inevitably requires replacement of worn parts and the total cost for the 12 machines at public conveniences is estimated to cost £83.

Receipts from Public Conveniences (Repeated)

Conveniences cannot be self-supporting and any receipts should be regarded as a contribution towards their cost and maintenance. The revenue from weighing machines, etc. helps to increase that contribution. There has been a reduction in revenue since turnstiles were removed.

Conveniences at Licensed Premises (Revised)

At four licensed premises there is an arrangement between the Council and the Brewers that outside urinals and water closets are available for use by the general public. The Council is responsible for water supply, lighting, and daily cleansing of such conveniences. Water supply is likely to be more expensive in the future. From 1st January, 1965, it was separately metered at each convenience at a total initial cost of approximately £200.

At the Ship Hotel conveniences will no longer be available for public use when extensions to the licensed premises are carried out in 1966.

PET ANIMALS ACT (Revised)

This Act came into operation upon the 1st April, 1952. It prohibits the keeping of a pet shop, except under the authority of a licence granted by the Council.

In deciding whether to grant a licence, the Council has to be satisfied with the accommodation in a number of specified respects intended to secure the well being of the animals.

Licences are granted annually by the Council permitting the keeping of pet animal shops at two premises in the Urban District.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963 (Repeated)

This Act has effect on 1st January, 1964. It provides for the licensing of boarding establishments for animals. Licences are valid for one year and a fee of 10/- is payable for each licence granted.

Section 3 of the Act provides:-

In determining whether to grant a licence for the keeping of a boarding establishment for animals a local authority shall have regard to the need for securing:-

- (a) That the accommodation is suitable;
- (b) that animals will be adequately fed, supplied with drink, exercised, and visited;
- (c) that precautions will be taken to prevent spread of diseases and against fire or other emergencies;
- (d) that a register of animals shall be kept.

The Local Authority is empowered to specify such conditions in the licence as may appear to be necessary for securing the above objects which are clearly intended for the protection and well being of animals at boarding establishments.

3 applications for licences were granted.

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1964 (New)

This new Act came into operation on 1st April, 1965. It provides that no person shall keep a riding establishment except under a licence granted by the local Council. The licence is renewable annually and a fee of 10/- is payable. Before granting a licence, the Council has to obtain a report from a veterinary surgeon whose fee is considerably more than the 10/- licence fee. One application was received and a licence was granted. The object of the Act is to ensure the well-being and welfare of the horses. Before granting a licence seven specific aspects of animal welfare have to be considered by the Council.

ANIMAL NUISANCE (New)

An old tithe barn was used for raising rabbits commercially for the food market. The rabbits were neglected and many died. A notice to abate a nuisance was served under the Public Health Act and a prosecution was taken successfully by the R.S.P.C.A.

PETROLEUM
(Revised substantially)

There are 39 Petroleum Spirit stores at Herne Bay which have to be licensed annually under the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928. Fees amounting to £36.10. 0. were received in December for the renewal of annual licences. Revised licensed conditions have been approved.

The Chief Public Health Inspector is responsible, as Petroleum Officer, for supervising new petroleum storage installations including the testing of tanks. He is also responsible for ensuring compliance with annual licensing conditions.

National Association to improve Petroleum Acts Administration

In 1958 five local authorities in the Midlands formed an Association to standardise the administration of Petroleum Acts and Regulations. This Association has proved its usefulness and has been of considerable assistance in the advancement of technical knowledge, and the interchange of information.

The Herne Bay Urban District Council joined the Midland group soon after its formation. The objects of the group have been so universally accepted that the group has been developed to become a National Association for Petroleum Acts Administration.

A quarterly bulletin is published. It contains a wealth of useful information concerning events at various parts of the country.

Codes of Practice are in course of preparation, and a model code of licence conditions has been prepared. This has been adopted at Herne Bay.

Basically, the object of the Association is to ensure, as far as possible, the safety in the use and storage of highly dangerous materials.

OIL HEATERS REGULATIONS. 1962
(Repeated)

In September 1962, upon the request of the Law and Finance Committee, it was decided by the Public Health and Housing Committee to accept responsibility for the administration of these Regulations.

The Regulations require every oil heater to bear a warning. Shops where oil heaters are exposed for sale have to be visited from time to time to examine heaters to ensure that they bear the following prescribed warnings:-

- (a) Against using petrol as fuel therein.
- (b) Against carrying the heater when alight.
- (c) Against using the heater in unventilated places.
- (d) Against using the heater where it may be exposed to draughts.
- (e) Against placing the heater where it may be knocked over.

The warnings have to be set out in legible and durable characters and displayed either upon the heater itself or upon a durable label stoutly affixed to it.

Other requirements of the Regulations have to do with standard of performance, fuel temperature, stability, prevention of spillage, flame flashback, fire risk, draught resistance, etc.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964
(New)

This new Act came into force on 1st April, 1965.

It requires every local authority to maintain a register of persons carrying on business in their area as scrap metal dealers.

Registration is automatically cancelled at the end of a period of 3 years, unless application is received for renewal. Dealers have to keep records of all scrap metal received or disposed of.

It is quite clearly an Act which is designed to assist the police in tracing stolen metal. It is not a public health measure.

Three dealers have been registered under the Act.

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